

**From:** Mendocino County Executive Office  
**To:** Board of Supervisors  
**Date:** 11/13/2018 8:15 AM  
**Subject:** 11/12/18 email from Anna Garza: Please vote NO on Mitchell Creek Overlay

jc

>>> Anna Lea Garza <annaleagarza@gmail.com> 11/12/2018 >>>

**November 12, 2018**

**TO: The Honorable**

**Dan Gjerde, Supervisor**

**Dan Hamburg, Supervisor**

**Carre Brown, Supervisor**

**John McCowen, Supervisor**

**Georgeanne Croskey, Supervisor**

**CC: CEO, Carmel Angelo**

**RE: Mendocino County Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance/Mitchell Creek Overlay**

We are writing once again to tell you that we continue to be **OPPOSED** to the Mitchell Creek Overlay pilot in our RR-2 zone. We ask that you accept the Planning Commission staff recommendation “against the establishment of the Mitchell Creek North and Mitchell Creek South Combining Districts” and REMOVE Mitchell Creek from the County proposed Overlay pilots.

Our key concerns regarding the Overlay proposal include environmental impact and water, potential decline of property values, access, public safety and crime. Most important, we want our Mitchell Creek rural residential neighborhood to remain RESIDENTIAL. The argument by the growers that they are “existing”, have always been in Mitchell Creek, is without merit. They just bought properties in a residential zone and set up business without any initial permit or notice to neighbors regarding these operations. There was never an opportunity for the majority of residents to provide input or raise concerns as illegal cultivations set up in Mitchell Creek. These businesses have operated under the table for years. This does not now serve as the argument for why it is incumbent on us to suddenly have to make it right by applying an Overlay band aid to the situation. Cannabis cultivators are a very small minority of the property owners in the Mitchell Creek North & South area – perhaps only 3-4%. Why should their interests be served over the greater majority of Mitchell Creek residents?

We are concerned that approval of Overlay for Mitchell Creek would establish a precedent for future and further commercial cultivation. This is a question of land use; we do not feel that any commercial cannabis cultivation is appropriate in an area so obviously residential, where families live and raise their children.

We agree, however, that cannabis as a business and tax revenue stream for Mendocino County is important and it has great potential for the economic health of the region. But continuing to hide cultivations in neighborhoods is not the answer; it does not give us the best business possibilities. The State of California passed legislation that legalized marijuana – this is historic. This deserves greater discussion and planning than we’ve done to date. We need to continue this work and develop a workable plan for Mitchell Creek cultivators.

Once again, we request that you REMOVE Mitchell Creek from the Combining Districts/Overlay pilots.

Thank you for your time, sincerely,

Anna Garza

Paul Garza Jr.

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